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ends desired as quickly as practicable, and this in the face of genuine difficulties. Fortunately, the Observatory has passed through its early difficulties with success, and has entered another period, under new and improved conditions. This change was certain to come sooner or later. That it has come quickly is due in an important degree to his friendly co-operation. So much, at the very least, is due from the Observatory to our departed friend. Those who have cheerfully and faithfully borne the burden and heat of the early days deserve the gratitude of those others who will reap the benefit of their labors.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

MT. HAMILTON, Nov. 25, 1896.

ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS.

ROTATION-TIMES OF *VENUS* AND *MERCURY*, ETC.

The following telegram appeared in the daily papers of the United States early in October:

LOWELL OBSERVATORY, FLAGSTAFF, Arizona, October 6.—The astronomers here have discovered that the planets *Mercury* and *Venus* each rotates once on its axis during its revolution around the Sun. These planets have therefore only one day in each of their years. *Venus* has a dense atmosphere, while *Mercury* has none.

This telegram omits to state that SCHIAPARELLI announced on December 8, 1889,* that his observations from 1882 onwards led to the conclusion that *Mercury* revolved on its axis once in one period of revolution about the Sun; and that he announced a similar conclusion with respect to *Venus* early in 1890.†

As no telegram relating to these important observations reached the Lick Observatory directly, I applied for a copy of the original sent to Boston, which has been kindly furnished by Mr. RITCHIE, as follows:

(Dated) Lowell Observatory, }
FLAGSTAFF, A. T., October 5, 1896. }

To JOHN RITCHIE, Jr., Boston:

Mercury and *Venus* rotate once on their axes in a revolution round the Sun. *Venus* is not cloud-covered, but atmosphere veiled. *Mercury* not. (Signed) LOWELL.

It thus appears that the original telegram from the Lowell

* See *Publications A. S. P.*, Volume II, page 79. † *Ibid.*, Volume II, page 246.

Observatory simply announces the important fact that the observers have confirmed the conclusions announced by SCHIAPARELLI in 1889 and 1890, and makes no claim whatever to discovery. This point is emphasized here because the wording of the newspaper telegram has been criticized on various sides (*e. g.* in the *New York Sun*, of October 8, 1896), as an injustice to Professor SCHIAPARELLI, although all astronomers, were, of course, familiar with his discovery. The publication of the observations of the Flagstaff Observatory on the points covered by the telegrams will be awaited with interest.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

MT. HAMILTON, October 26, 1896.

RE-DISCOVERY OF THE COMPANION OF *SIRIUS*, AT THE
LICK OBSERVATORY.

ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAM.

(Dated) Lick Observatory, Oct. 31, 1896.

To Harvard College Observatory: (Sent 8^h 20^m A. M.)

CLARK'S companion to *Sirius* is in its predicted place. Position, 189°; distance, 3''.7; from three nights measures by AITKEN and SCHAEFERLE. No other companion is visible. Cable.

NOTE.—CLARK'S companion of *Sirius* was last observed at Mt. Hamilton by Professor BURNHAM 1890.27 in. $p=359^{\circ}.7$, $s=4''.19$. Professor HUSSEY examined the system carefully, during February and March of the present year, (and Professor CAMPBELL, in March, also) and the companion was not to be seen. It was still too close (see *Publications A. S. P.*, Vol. VIII, page 183.)

On August 31, Dr. T. J. J. SEE reported that the companion had been re-discovered at the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, (see *Astronomical Journal*, No. 385) in $p=220^{\circ}$, $s=5''$. Measures of an object near this place were made by Messrs. SEE, DOUGLASS and COGSALL; and it was also reported to have been seen by Messrs. LOWELL and DREW. (See HOWARD'S orbit, A. J. Vol. X, page 149).

There is no doubt that the CLARK companion is in $p=189^{\circ}$, $s=3''.7$; and it is not probable that any other companion exists.

E. S. H.

ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS (*Translation*).

(Dated) Lick Observatory, Oct. 15, 1896.

F. H. SEARES, Berkeley: (Sent 7^h 41^m P. M.)

Comet GIACOBINI was observed by HUSSEY and PERRINE, October 4, 16^h 6^m 56^s G. M. T.; R. A. 18^h 20^m 59^s.57; Decl. —11° 56' 40''.8. [Also on October 7 and 8].